

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 /072 W

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R 122158Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7494

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 06413

E.O. 11652:XGDS1

TAGS: PFOR, US, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S VISIT TO

MOSCOW: PRELIMINARY QUAI IMPRESSIONS

1. SUMMARY: QUAI EXPECTS CHIRAC VISIT TO MOSCOW TO
PRODUCE NO SURPRISES. EMPHASIS IS LIKELY TO FOCUS ON
BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, GISCARD'S MOSCOW PROGRAM,
CSCE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND INDO-CHINA. END SUMMARY.

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2. OMNES AND OTHER MEMBERS QUAI'S EASTERN EUROPEAN DIVISION HAVE GIVEN US THEIR PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON FRENCH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S TRIP TO THE USSR MARCH 19-24, THE FIRST SUCH VISIT SINCE POMPIDOU WENT THERE AS PRIME MINISTER IN 1967.

3. TECHNICALLY, VISIT WILL INVOLVE TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS AND PROTOCOLARY EVENTS IN MOSCOW (MARCH 20-21) AND TWO DAYS OF TRAVEL (MARCH 22-23), PRIMARILY TO SIBERIA WHERE CHIRAC WILL VISIT IRKUTSK AND THE BRATSK ELECTRIC POWER COMPLEX. IN MOSCOW, QUAI EXPECTS KOSYGIN WILL BE CHIRAC'S PRINCIPAL COUNTERPART, BUT ASSUMES THAT CHIRAC WILL ALSO BE RECEIVED BY PODGORNYY, AS WELL AS BREZHNEV, ON GROUNDS THAT SOVIETS COULD HARDLY DO LESS FOR FRENCH THAN THEY HAVE DONE FOR BRITISH. THERE IS, HOWEVER, SOME UNCERTAINTY WHETHER BREZHNEV'S EXPECTED ATTENDANCE OF THE HUNGARIAN CP CONGRESS COULD PREVENT HIS RETURNING TO MOSCOW IN TIME. SOVIETS HAVE SO FAR MADE NO COMMITMENTS ALTHOUGH A "BLANK PERIOD" HAS BEEN SET ASIDE ON PROGRAM FOR POSSIBLE BREZHNEV RECEPTION.

4. SUBSTANTIVELY, QUAI BELIEVES VISIT SHOULD PRODUCE "NO SURPRISES." THE SOVIETS HAVE JUST SUBMITTED WHAT FRENCH VIEW AS "FAIRLY REASONABLE" DRAFT COMMUNIQUE, WHICH CLOSELY FOLLOWS THEMES OF RAMBOUILLET. AS FOR DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW, FRENCH SIDE EXPECTS CHIRAC TO STRESS BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, IN WHICH HE IS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED, AND TO CONCERN HIMSELF TO AN EXTENT WITH GISCARD'S PROGRAM. QUAI PRESUMES SOVIETS WILL EMPHASIZE CSCE, TO WHICH FRENCH SAY THEY INTEND TO REPLY WITH LINE WORKED OUT BY EC-NINE. THERE WILL, OF COURSE, ALSO BE TOUR D'HORIZON OF OTHER MAJOR ISSUES, INCLUDING MIDDLE EAST AND INDO-CHINA. HOWEVER, APART FROM SOME POSSIBLE MINOR ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, NO SIGNIFICANT ACCORDS ARE EXPECTED TO EMERGE.

5. QUAI'S LESS FORMAL REACTIONS TO VISIT ARE ALSO OF SOME INTEREST. FOR ONE, QUAI SEEMS SOMEWHAT LESS

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SELF-ASSURED ABOUT ITS MANAGEMENT OF THIS VISIT THAN IS
NORMALLY THE CASE. THIS MAY, TO AN EXTENT, BE DUE TO
FACT THAT THIS IS FIRST MOSCOW VISIT AT PREMIER'S LEVEL
IN SOME YEARS; AND THAT DEFINITION CHIRAC'S ROLE AS
GISCARD'S PRECURSOR -- GISCARD'S VISIT IS NOW SET FOR
SOMETIME IN OCTOBER -- CALLS FOR SOME SPECIAL CARE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT SEEMS DUE TO QUAI'S LACK OF
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EXPERIENCE WITH THE "CHIRAC PHENOMENON." FONMIN SAUVAG-

NARGUES WILL, OF COURSE, ACCOMPANY CHIRAC AND WILL PLAY MAJOR ROLE ON KEY QUESTIONS, INCLUDING CSCE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS MORE THAN USUAL SKITTISHNESS ABOUT THE WAY CHIRAC HIMSELF WILL HANDLE SITUATION; OR EVEN AS TO SUBJECTS IN QUAI'S BRIEFING BOOK WHICH WILL INTEREST A PRIME MINISTER, WHOSE EXPOSURE TO FOREIGN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AS ONE OFFICIAL PUT IT, HAS SO FAR BEEN ALMOST AS LIMITED AS HIS ENERGY IS BECOMING LEGENDARY.

6. LASTLY IT MIGHT BE WORTH A FOOTNOTE THAT, AT LEAST SOME SENIOR QUAI OFFICIALS ARE DISCREETLY SURPRISED THAT SOVIETS AGREED TO CHIRAC'S VISIT AT THIS TIME AT ALL -- INVOLVING AS IT DID MOVING MITTERAND TRIP TO APRIL AND COMPLICATING LIFE FOR THE FRENCH CP, WHO HAVE CHOSEN CHIRAC AS THEIR CURRENT BETE NOIR. THEY CONCLUDE THAT SOVIETS HAVE CLEARLY PUT THEIR CHIPS ON PROPOSITION THAT CHIRAC IS IMPORTANT, THAT HE MAY WELL BECOME MORE SO, AND THAT IT IS, THEREFORE, IN SOVIET INTEREST TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH HIM AT THIS STAGE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS06413
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750087-0238
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750358/aaaacadb.tel
Line Count: 190
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <05 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S VISIT TO MOSCOW: PRELIMINARY QUAI IMPRESSIONS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR, (CHIRAC, JACQUES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006